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FBI Shuts Down Counterspy Operation

The FBI has shut down without explanation a counterintelligence operation intended to entice Vietnamese spies in this country to defect. The FBI has refused to comment on the operation, code-named Chu Hoi II.

The counterspy operation had been going on for about two years when it was abruptly halted earlier this year. Sources told our associates Donald Goldberg and Corky Johnson that Chu Hoi II had been "fairly successful" in luring Hanoi's agents in from the cold.

FBI agents spread word through Vietnamese communities in the United States that spies could turn themselves in and be protected from Hanoi's revenge.

Our sources say they believe that about four of every 10 Vietnamese refugees now entering this country are secretly working for the communist government, either as informants on anticommunist refugee groups or as shippers of medical supplies and hard currency illegally to Hanoi.

The Vietnamese government's machinations in this country have occasionally led to bloodshed. In fact, on the very day last May when we wrote about "Operation VICTOR," a Customs Service investigation that detailed the widespread extortion of money from Vietnamese refugees here, gunmen shot down a Vietnamese couple in San Francisco who were believed to be working with Hanoi in currency transactions.

The husband survived the attack, but the wife died, leaving an estate valued at about \$250,000 to the Vietnamese government.

The couple had been working with a

Sino-Vietnamese businessman in San Diego who was funneling dollars to Vietnam in exchange for gold. Hanoi sent an agent to San Diego, where he picked up the U.S. currency, apparently without checking it carefully.

When the Hanoi agent arrived in Hong Kong en route home, it was discovered that the currency was counterfeit. A hit man was promptly dispatched to San Diego, where he decapitated the San Diego businessman and his wife in ritualistic fashion.

According to our sources, an associate of the dead gold smuggler blamed his death on the couple in San Francisco; they were gunned down.

In addition to hired guns from Hanoi, militant anticommunist refugee groups have turned Vietnamese communities in major U.S. cities into virtual free-fire zones, according to law enforcement sources.

One group, calling itself the Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate Communists and Restore the Nation, has been linked to shootings. The group claimed responsibility for the killing last summer of a Vietnamese couple in San Francisco who had been friends of an American physics professor suspected of supplying computer equipment to Hanoi illegally. The professor, himself, who was an advocate of normalizing relations with Hanoi, was killed by a Vietnamese refugee who claimed the shooting was accidental.

The FBI has agreed to meet with representatives of the Vietnamese refugee community to hear their concerns over the activities of the "extermination committee," according to our sources.